

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 1 and insert therefor the following new Claim 19:

A1 19. (New) A method for separating components from vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, such as parenchyma and cytosol.

Please amend Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 to read as follows:

A5 2. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the juice stream comprises chloroplasts.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the material is mechanically fiberized.

A6 5. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the fiber fraction is separated from the juice stream comprising one of screening, centrifugation, processing by hydro(cyclone), centriscreening, decanting, sedimentation, or combinations thereof.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the vegetable material originates from a cultivated crop.

Please cancel Claim 8-18 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 20-41, as follows:

A7 20. (New) A fiber fraction obtained by a method for separating components from vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, such as parenchyma and cytosol.

21. (New) A biodegradable product comprising a fiber fraction obtained by a method for separating components from vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, such as parenchyma and cytosol.

22. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is paper.

23. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is cardboard.

24. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is fiberboard.

25. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is used in the preparation of a moisture absorbing material.

26. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is used in the preparation of growth media.

27. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is a soil improver.

28. (New) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is fuel to produce energy.

29. (New) A juice stream obtained by a method for separating components from vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, such as parenchyma and cytosol.

30. (New) A juice stream according to claim 29, which contains more than 55% of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

31. (New) A juice stream according to claim 30, which contains preferably more than 75% of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

32. (New) A juice stream according to claim 31, which contains preferably more than 90% of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

33. (New) A protein enriched product comprising a juice stream obtained by a method for separating components from vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, such as parenchyma and cytosol.

34. (New) A protein enriched product according to claim 33, wherein said product is food.

35. (New) A protein enriched product according to claim 34, wherein said food is for human nourishment.

36. (New) A protein enriched product according to claim 34, wherein said food is for use in livestock feeding.

37. (New) A protein enriched product according to claim 33, wherein said product is a substrate for fermentation.

38. (New) A protein enriched product according to claim 33, which results from recovering or purifying a substance contained in said juice stream.

39. (New) An apparatus for separating components from vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) a fiberizer which dissociates relatively firm tissues from the relatively soft tissues of said vegetable material, and
- b) a separator which separates the fiber fraction from the juice stream.

40. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said apparatus comprises a refiner.

41. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said apparatus comprises a blender.